University of Victoria Special Collections

Mayhew, Robert Wellington, 1880-1971

SC078

Title

Robert Wellington Mayhew fonds

Dates

1909-1969

Extent

1.53 m of textual records
ca. 400 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Robert Wellington Mayhew was born in Cobden, Ontario, the son of Charles Mayhew and Sarah Dunlop Mayhew. He married Grace Logan in 1908 and had three children. Robert Mayhew was first elected to the House of Commons for Victoria at a by-election in 1937 and was subsequently re-elected in 1940, 1945 and 1949. He served as Minister of Fisheries from 1948 to 1952. He retired from politics in 1952 and served as Canadian Ambassador to Japan from 1952 to 1954. Mayhew was also active in the Victoria community and was made a Freeman of the City of Victoria in 1966 and of the Municipality of Oak Bay in 1968. He and his wife, Grace Logan Mayhew, were awarded honorary life memberships in the Victoria Liberal Association in 1954. Mayhew also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Victoria in 1965.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records documenting activities of Robert Mayhew and family, including subject files relating to Mayhew's career as Canadian Ambassador to Japan and as Minister of Fisheries, records of Grace Logan Mayhew, including diaries and notebooks on Japanese arts and crafts kept by Mrs. Mayhew on sojourns in Rome and Japan and material relating to her funeral in 1967; photographs of visits of Japanese dignitaries and the British royal family, as well as portraits of Canadian prime ministers; certificates of Mayhew's honorary Doctor of Laws degree, Freeman of Oak Bay and Victoria, and appointment of Mayhew as Minister of Fisheries and as Ambassador to Japan.

Finding Aids

Finding aid available.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

MAYHEW, ROBERT WELLINGTON

INVENTORY

Prepared by Anne Maclean University of

Victoria Special Collections August 1991

INTRODUCTION

The records of Robert Wellington Mayhew were acquired by U. Vic. Special Collections from Mayhew's son, Robert Logan Mayhew, in August 1971. They document many of the activities of Mayhew and his wife, Grace, from 1909 to 1969, including Mayhew's duties as Canadian Ambassador to Japan and Minister of Fisheries. Grace Mayhew's records include travel diaries and engagement books outlining her duties as a minister's and ambassador's wife. The records also describe some of the Mayhews' activities in the local Victoria community, such as their involvement in various clubs.

Further accruals are unlikely; however, this inventory will be updated if and when necessary.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Wellington Mayhew was born on 13 October 1880 in Cobden, Ontario, the son of Charles Mayhew and Sarah Dunlop Mayhew. He married Grace Logan on 26 February 1908; their children were Robert Logan, Charles Alan, and Jean Edwards; Alan Mayhew, an RCAF pilot during the World War, 1939-1945, was killed in action over the Indian Ocean in June 1943. His daughter Jean married Alex Lawrason; his daughter-in-law is the Victoria sculptor Elza Mayhew.

Mayhew was first elected to the House of Commons for Victoria at a by-election held on 29 November 1937; he was re-elected at general elections in 1940, 1945 and 1949. He served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance from 1946 to 1948, and was Minister of Fisheries from 1948 to 1952. He retired from politics in 1952, and was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Japan that same year, serving in this post until 1954.

Mayhew was prominent in the Victoria community for many years. He was president and later Vice-Chairman of the Board at Sidney Roofing & Paper Co. Ltd. and its subsidiaries, and was a member of the Victoria Advisory Board and the Royal Trust Company. Early in his political career he was Reeve of Oak Bay Municipality. Other memberships included the Rotary Club, Victoria Club, Colwood Golf Club and the Union Club. For his services to the community he was awarded a public service medal from the City of Victoria in 1948, and was made a Freeman of the City of Victoria in 1966 and of the Municipality of Oak Bay in 1968. Mayhew was a member and elder of the United Church in Victoria. He was given an honourary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Victoria in 1965.

Both Robert and Grace Mayhew were awarded honourary life memberships in the Victoria Liberal Association in 1954. Grace Mayhew, who was born in London, Ontario, on 21 April 1878, died in Victoria on 2 September 1967. Robert Mayhew died in Victoria in 1971.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I CORRESPONDENCE, 1932-1966
Accession 71-10, Box 1; Box 2, Files 1-3.
17 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Consists of correspondence relating to Mayhew genealogy; letters of congratulation to Mayhew on his election wins in 1937 and 1948 and his appointment as Ambassador to Japan in 1952; correspondence re. finances and with colleagues including Lester B. Pearson.

II SUBJECT FILES, 1934-1965
Accession 71-10, Box 2, Files 4-13; Box 3.
24 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by name.

Consists of reports and booklets by the Australian and Canadian Departments of External Affairs re. South-East Asia and consular members; other books on Japan; staff lists of Canadian Embassy in Tokyo; invitations to and programmes of functions; clippings relating to the Japanese Fisheries Treaty, 1952, and Japanese Peace Conference, San Francisco, 1951; speech by Joseph Smallwood, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador on Japan, 1965; correspondence and related material concerning the Vancouver Foundation, Vancouver Symphony Society, and the Victoria Symphony Society; clippings and itineraries re. visits of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, 1951, and of Japanese dignitaries, 1954.

III DIARIES AND NOTEBOOKS, 1953-1962
Accession 71-10, Box 4, File 1-4.
5 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Consists of expenditure book used at Canadian Embassy, Tokyo; desk diaries; undated notebook.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

IV GRACE MAYHEW - PERSONAL RECORDS, 1909-1967
Accession 71-10, Box 4, Files 5-10; Box 5.
12 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Consists of diaries kept by Grace Mayhew, 1909, 1941-1954, including diaries of trips to Rome and Japan and engagement book; material relating to Mrs. Mayhew's funeral in September 1967, including programme for funeral service, related correspondence and clippings, and lists of sympathy cards and letters.

V CLIPPINGS, 1939-1966
Accession 71-10, Boxes 6-8.
27 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Consists of clippings relating to royal visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939, and of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1951; Mayhew's activities as Minister of Fisheries and Ambassador to Japan, including photos of Grace Mayhew and other Mayhew family members.

VI DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, DRAWINGS, 1952-1969
Accession 71-10, Box 9.
8 cm.
Arranged by subject.

Consists of Rotary Club certificate, Hon. Doctor of Laws diploma from the University of Victoria, Hon. Life Member Certificates from the Victoria Liberal Association, and album of drawings of Victoria scenes by Edward Goodall, presented to Mayhew by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, 1952.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

VII FREEMAN OF VICTORIA AND OAK BAY, 1966, 1968
Accession 71-10, Box 10
8 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by name of municipality or city.

Consists of souvenir booklets containing programmes of installation ceremonies, clippings, related correspondence, copies of certificates and original certificate of Freeman of Victoria.

VIII MAPS, 1918
Accession 71-10, Box 11.
1 map: 105 cm. x 33 cm.

Consists of map of Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company's Land Grant, Vancouver Island, 1918.

IX MEDALS, 1935-1971
Accession 71-10, Box 12.
8 medals.

Consists of medals given to Mayhew honouring the reign of George V, the coronations of George VI (1937) and Elizabeth II (1953), the centennial of Canadian Confederation (1967), the centennial of British Columbia as a colony (1958) and entering Confederation (1971), Mayhew as a Canadian pioneer (1967, 1971), and City of Victoria Public Service Medal (1948).

X PHOTOGRAPHS, 1939-1954
Accession 71-10, Boxes 13-16
42 cm.
b & w; 1 colour.
Arranged by subject.

Consists of photographs of Mayhew's activities as Minister of Fisheries and Ambassador to Japan, visits of British royal family and Japanese dignitaries, conferences, and portraits of Mayhew's colleagues, including Louis St. Laurent, Lester B. Pearson and William Lyon Mackenzie King.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

XI SHEET MUSIC, ca. 1950's
Accession 71-10, Box 17.
4 cm.

Consists of sheet music of popular songs, ca. 1950's.

XII TERMS OF UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA, 1949
Accession 71-10, Box 18
1 booklet: 36 cm. x 24 cm.

Consists of bound copy of *Terms of Union of Newfoundland and Canada*, 1949. Includes covering letter from Louis St. Laurent, 21 November 1950.

XIII UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, 1965
Accession 71-10, Box 19.
6 cm.

Consists of hood for hon. Doctor of Laws degree awarded to Mayhew.

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1

1.1 Mayhew genealogy - correspondence from Jacob M. Mayhew, 16 December 1969; copies of birth and death registries; clippings, November 1969.

1.2 "Personal". Correspondence with friends and associates, 1932-1939. Includes clippings.

1.3 Letters of congratulation re. election win, 1937. Includes clippings.

1.4 Letters of congratulation, 1948. A - F.

1.5 Letters of congratulation, 1948. G - M.

1.6 Letters of congratulation, 1948. N - Z.

1.7 Letters of congratulation, 1952 (1).

Box 2

2.1 Letters of congratulation, 1952 (2). Includes photographs.

2.2 Correspondence - Ruth Randall, Victoria. 1953. Re. Mayhew's finances.

2.3 Correspondence, 1954-1966. Includes letter from Mike [Lester B.] Pearson, 23 July 1954.

SERIES II:SUBJECT FILES

2.4 Australia. Dept. of External Affairs. *Notes on South-East Asia*, ca. 1948.

2.5 Canada. Dept. of External Affairs. *Diplomatic and Consular Representatives in Ottawa*. 15 November 1950. In English and French.

2.6 The Canada-Japan Society. Lists of members, September 1954, May 1955.

2.7 Canadian Peace Research Institute, Victoria. Correspondence, reports, pamphlets, 1958-1965.

2.8 Commonwealth Conference on Foreign Affairs, January 1950. Identity cards for Robert and Grace Mayhew; passport for Grace Mayhew, 1952.

2.9 Conference on South-East Asia, 1950. Reports, correspondence with Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa.

2.10 Consular List, The Gaimusho, December 1953.

2.11 Embassy, Tokyo. Correspondence, 1953. Includes invitations, photograph.

2.12 Embassy, Tokyo. Diplomatic list, June 1954.

2.13 Embassy staff, buildings, Tokyo, 1952-1954. Correspondence; lists and biographical sketches and duties of Canadian personnel; letters of instruction. Includes clipping.

SERIES II:SUBJECT FILES

Box 3

3.1 Griffin, D.F. *First Steps to Tokyo: The Royal Canadian Air Force in the Aleutians*. Toronto: J.M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Limited, 1944.

3.2 Ichiyo School, Japan. Hol. notes by Grace Mayhew on Japanese flower arrangements, in bound notebook, n.d.

3.3 Invitations, 1949-1955.

3.4 Invitations, announcements, 1962-1967.

3.5 Japan. Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew and Japanese hosts; scenes of Japanese fishing and duck-netting. n.d.

3.6 Japanese Fisheries Treaty, 1952. Clippings, photographs.

3.7 Japanese Peace Conference, San Francisco, 1951. Program and menu of dinner, 8 September 1951.

3.8 Japanese Peace Conference, San Francisco, 1951. Booklet given to delegates -includes photograph of conference session and photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge, both b & w.

3.9 Programmes of and invitations to official functions, 1935-1952. Includes programme of National Ceremony of Mourning for George VI, 15 February 1952, and invitation for Mrs. Mayhew to attend Installation of the Governor-General, 28 February 1952.

3.10 Saguenay-Lake-St. John District. Parliamentary visit, 21 June 1952. Programme.

3.11 Joseph R. Smallwood, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. "Japan: An Exciting Country", address given at the Canada-Japan Trade Council Luncheon, St. John's, Nfld., 26 July 1965, printed in booklet, 16 p. Includes letter to Mayhew from Canada-Japan Trade Council, 11 February 1966.

3.12 Vancouver Foundation. Correspondence, 1957.

3.13 Vancouver Symphony Society. Notice to Members, 1956.

3.14 Victoria College, 1960. Correspondence, notices and minutes of meetings of the University Building Fund and Key Personal Gifts Committee.

3.15 Victoria Symphony Society. 1955-1957. Correspondence, list of Board of Directors, budgets, revenues and expenditures.

3.16 Vining, Elizabeth Gray. *Return to Japan*. Philadelphia and New York: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1960. Booklet.

3.17 Visit of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, October 1951. Related correspondence, royal reception programme, instructions for drivers, itinerary.

3.18 Visit to Vancouver with Japanese dignitaries, 1954. List of members of Japanese Business Mission to Canada; correspondence; seating plans, reports.

SERIES III: ROBERT MAYHEW - DIARIES AND NOTEBOOKS

Box 4

4.1 Mayhew - expenditure book for Embassy, 1953-1954.
4.2 Mayhew - desk diary, 1955.
4.3 Mayhew - desk diary, 1962.
4.4 Mayhew - notebook, n.d. (only 6 p. used at front and 2 at back).

SERIES IV:GRACE MAYHEW - PERSONAL RECORDS

4.5 Grace Mayhew - travel diary of Rome visit, August 1909.
4.6 Grace Mayhew - diary, 1941-1943.
4.7 Grace Mayhew - diary, 1949.
4.8 Grace Mayhew - diary, 1949-1950. Includes clipping, guest list.
4.9 Grace Mayhew - diary of Japan, 1953.
4.10 Grace Mayhew - engagements, 1954. Includes correspondence.

Box 5

5.1 Grace Gertrude Mayhew - funeral service, September 1967. Related correspondence, programme, lists of sympathy cards and letters.

SERIES V: CLIPPINGS

Box 6 1939-1945.

Box 7 1948-1952.

Box 8 1950-1966.

SERIES VI:DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, DRAWINGS

Box 9

9.1 Rotary Club certificate, Victoria, June 1969.

9.2 Honourary Doctor of Laws diploma, University of Victoria, 31 May 1965.

9.3 Victoria Liberal Association. Honourary life member certificates for Robert and Grace Mayhew, 25 November 1954.

9.4 Album of drawings by Edward Goodall, presented to Mayhew upon his appointment as Canadian Ambassador to Japan by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, 5 December 1952. Victoria scenes - 14 black and white drawings, 7 colour drawings.

SERIES VII: FREEMAN OF VICTORIA AND OAK BAY

Box 10

10.1 Mayhew, Freeman, District of Oak Bay, 16 July 1968. Souvenir book containing correspondence, clippings, programme of municipal hall ceremony, copy of certificates, photographs.

10.2 Mayhew, Freeman, City of Victoria, 13 October 1966. Souvenir book containing invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew to City Hall ceremony, programme of ceremony, clippings, copies of certificates, photographs of Mayhew, Mrs. Grace Mayhew, Mrs. A.W. Toone, daughter Jean Edwards Lawrason and daughter-in-law Elza Mayhew.

10.3 Freeman, City of Victoria. Correspondence, clippings, programme of ceremony.

10.4 Freeman, City of Victoria. Certificate, 13 October 1966.

SERIES VIII: MAPS

Box 11

11.1 Map of Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company's Land Grant, Vancouver Island, 1918.

SERIES IX:MEDALS

Box 12

12.1 Queen Mary and George V, 1935.
12.2 George VI, 1937.
12.3 Elizabeth II, 1953.
12.4 City of Victoria Public Service Medal, 1948.
12.5 British Columbia medal, 1958.
12.6 Canada Confederation, 1967.
12.7 Canadian Pioneers Medal, 1967.
12.8 B.C. Pioneers Medal, 1971.

SERIES X: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 13

13.1 Album of b & w photographs of Mayhew in Japan, with other ambassadors, and reviewing troops; also includes clippings. 1953-1954.
13.2 Royal visits, Japanese dignitaries, 1939-1960.
13.3 30 b & w miniature postcards of Japan, ca. 1950's.
13.4 b & w photographs, 1953 - ca. 1960's. Re-enactments of battle scenes, military parades and ceremonies, visits and tours. Includes photo of Lester B. Pearson.
13.5 Launching ceremony of the Turbine Oil Tanker, *BA Canada*, for the British American Oil Co. Ltd., Toronto. Uraga Shipbuilding Yard, 25 June 1953. 57 b & w photos (20 cm. x 25 cm. or smaller) affixed to pages in album.

SERIES X: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box 14 (oversize)

14.1 Portraits of Louis St. Laurent, b & w, mounted, autographed for Mayhew, 15 November 1949 and Christmas 1949.

14.2 William Lyon Mackenzie King - 2 portraits autographed for Mayhew, Christmas 1937 and 1 July 1942.

14.3 Panoramic print of ladies visiting the Fisheries Council of Canada, Capilano Golf Club, Vancouver, 30 April 1952.

14.4 Mayhew with delegates at 7th Imperial Press Conference, Jasper, n.d.

14.5 U.S. Army photo of Canadian, United Nations and American flags at Pershing Heights, Tokyo, Japan, mounted, inscribed "To His Excellency R.W. Mayhew, Ambassador of Canada, with deep appreciation of the magnificent contribution Canadian forces are making to the U.N. effort in Korea, Mark W. Clark, Tokyo, 1 July 1953."

14.6 Lester B. Pearson, inscribed to Mayhew "with affectionate regards, L.B. Pearson, 22 August 1950."

14.7 J.A. Glen, inscribed for Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew, 25 December 1941.

14.8 Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew with guests and unidentified function, n.d.

14.9 Mayhew with army personnel - 3 b & w photos, 1 colour photo.

14.10 Portrait of parliamentary colleague, inscribed for Mayhew [signature illegible], 3 May 1947.

14.11 J.B. Haley [?], inscribed for Mayhew, n.d.

Box 15 (oversize)

15.1 Album of 52 b & w photos documenting Mayhew's activities as Minister of Fisheries, 1948-1952; assembled and presented to Mayhew by the Dept. of Fisheries.

Box 16 (oversize)

16.1 Album of 24 b & w photos of Mayhew, Grace Mayhew and others in Japan, ca. 1950-1954. Includes photos of Mayhew at the Conference on the Development of South-East Asia, London, England, 1950.

16.2 Souvenir album of 30 b & w photos of Mayhew during visit to Hiroshima and Korea, 7-13 May 1954.

SERIES XI:SHEET MUSIC

Box 17

17.1 Sheet music of popular songs, ca. 1950's.

SERIES XII: TERMS OF UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA

Box 18

18.1 Copy of *Terms of Union of Newfoundland and Canada*, 1949. Includes covering letter from Louis St. Laurent, 21 November 1950.

SERIES XIII: UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

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19.1 U. Vic. hood, hon. Doctor of Laws degree, 1965.

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